

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. (Original) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. (Original) The purified polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. (Currently amended) A purified polypeptide comprising the ~~The purified polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence is the~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 5-17. (Cancelled)
18. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide has amide synthetase activity.